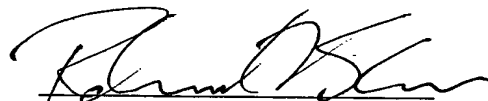


Preliminary Amendment  
Attorney Docket Q79720  
February 9, 2004

### REMARKS

The application has been amended to delete the multiple dependencies therein, to provide appropriate headings for the various sections of the specification, and to delete the erroneous improper second paragraph of the abstract. Entry and consideration of this Amendment and an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert V. Sloan  
Registration No. 22,775

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 9, 2004